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The Hilltop 10-31-2006

Hilltop Staff

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THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2006

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TUESDAY
notebook

BREAKING NEWS

TEEN ADMITS TO RAPING MOTHER

POLICE SAID GARY DEAN HELMS, JR., 19, CONFESSED TO RAPING HIS OWN MOTHER. THE ACT WAS SAID TO BE A RETALIATION TO A FAMILY DISPUTE, ACCORDING TO ALL HEADLINE NEWS.

METRO

HOMELESSNESS IN DC ADDRESSED

FIND OUT ABOUT WHAT CITY OFFICIALS ARE DOING ABOUT THE SITUATION OF THE HOMELESS IN THE DISTRICT IN METRO. **PAGE 4**



TUES, 10/31:
PARTLY CLOUDY
HIGH: 72, LOW: 55

WED, 11/1:
PARTLY CLOUDY
HIGH: 67, LOW: 45

All Hallow's Eve Has Celebration Options

BY DESIREE SMITH
Contributing Writer

In elementary school, when Halloween time came around, Howard students may be able to remember being the child in the ninja turtle outfit their mom spent hours making so they could win the school costume contest. Or some may have been the ones sitting patiently to the side, unable to participate in festivities due to religious reasons. However, as progressing adults, cartoon costumes, tricks or treats and door-to-door antics are still a part of this year's Halloween game plan.

"I love to be in the spirit, so I'm going to get some cat ears and wear all black," said sophomore print journalism major Charmaine Davis. "I'm actually going to three parties this [Halloween]."

Davis isn't alone in her plans to party it up for Halloween. Whether it's going to a club with the promise of seeing a celebrity or two or going to the old fashion house party, students at the "Mecca" will have an array of options to choose from.

"I will most certainly be celebrating Halloween this year," said senior broadcast journalism major Sudana Irby. "I plan on going out to club Fur to see Danity Kane perform also."

Nevertheless, some students aren't as anxious and excited for the holiday as others. From conflicting spiritual views to just a nonchalant approach to celebrations, not all students are as gung ho to put on costumes and dance the night away.

Junior Afro-American Studies major Aaron Boos said, "I don't really believe in Halloween and I haven't celebrated it since I was 16." She added, "As I've gotten older, I feel that Halloween is not a real holiday cause we still have to go to work and school. It's just [an excuse]

to take candy from my little sisters."

When it comes to religion and Halloween, churches in many communities do not celebrate the holiday and offer alternative options for their congregations.

For Divinity Graduate student Marlene Johnson, Halloween has never been a holiday she has taken part in, and as a mother, she doesn't allow how children to either. However, Johnson doesn't feel like the festivities are wicked, and is an advocate for alternative celebrations.

"I don't think it [Halloween] is evil, but I do feel some people may use it for evil," Johnson said. "My kids will go to church where they have a carnival, candy, food and games. They are allowed to dress up, mainly as biblical characters, but costumes like witches and goblins are not usually acceptable."

With the first time freedoms that come with being in college, some students do feel that they finally have the chance to celebrate Halloween after being sheltered from the annual event when they were younger.

"My family is really religious, so [when I was younger] I would have to go to Hallelujah night at church," Irby said. "We would always have to dress in angel costumes, but now I have a chance to make up for lost time."

In the eyes of Irby, celebrating the holiday should be seen as nothing more than good fun, as long as a person isn't "worshiping the devil or conjuring up evil beings." Davis agreed and looks forward to participating in Halloween events.

"I would say [religious] people who are against Halloween [now] are just extremist," Davis said. "I think it's all about having fun."



Although Halloween is a generally accepted holiday in the U.S., there are mixed feelings among some religious people about how the occasion should be observed.

Red-Light Traffic Cameras Disputed

BY MONICA JONES
Contributing Writer

In a city-wide survey conducted in 1999, D.C. residents cited unsafe driving and running red lights and stop signs as their number one safety concern. To correct this problem, the Metropolitan Police Department implemented its automated red-light enforcement program in August of 1999. The program's main goal, as stated on denites.com, is "reducing violations, preventing crashes and injuries and saving lives."

The program is designated to enhance the safety of the District's residents and visitors by reducing the number of drivers who violate traffic regulations. The cameras are designed to automatically photograph any transgressor of such violations, utilizing photo enforcement technology to make sure that the law is being upheld fairly and consistently.

Since the implementation of the program in August 1999, as of September 2006, the program has been reported to have achieved results. For example, a 67 percent decline in red-light violations (equivalent to 29,100 fewer violations a month), 628,869 notices of infractions mailed, 437,521 notices of infraction paid, and \$38.5 million in fines collected, according to mpdc.dc.gov.

According to Adam Maier, committee clerk to Councilwoman Carol Schwartz, the funds collected from the fines paid go into the D.C.'s "general fund." The current mayor is in charge of the disbursement of the general fund, which are disbursed into general city expenses.

However, Maier says that he does feel that the red-light cameras have been very effective



Photo courtesy of www.police.edmonton.ab.ca

As a response to complaints about unsafe driving conditions, the District's automated red-light enforcement program has helped to improve violation statistics since 1999.

in decreasing traffic violations. To the people who feel that the traffic cameras are just about making money for the city he states, "the reality is that the number of people caught is declining, so it has

had an impact on people running red lights and speeding. And also the opinions of people caught might not be favorable."

He also stated that Schwartz advocates for the

cameras to be placed in mainly residential areas, such as New York Avenue, where people walk so that the main purpose of the cameras will be

See CAMERA, NEWS A4

Reports Prove BP Explosion Preventable

BY TRAYER RIGGINS
Hilltop Staff Writer

Recent reports and findings concerning the Texas City, Texas explosion that took place in March 2005 at a BP refinery indicate that the incident could have been prevented.

Internal reports from the Chemical Safety Board's (CSB) safety audit conducted in 2003 sights "significant safety problems at the Texas City refinery," according to a report from CNNMoney.com. Problems that if fixed, could have prevented the explosion that took 15 lives and left around 170 others injured.

"The CSB's investigation shows that BP's global management was aware of problems with maintenance, spending, and infrastructure well before March 2005," said Carolyn Merritt, CSB chairman, in a press release, according to a reporters by Reuters AlertNet.

Attention was focused on preventing personnel incidents such as slips, falls and trips rather than preventing and enhancing machine maintenance and management systems, according to Don Holstrom, CSB's lead investi-

gator, in the CNNMoney.com report.

BP has taken full accountability for the Texas City incident, setting aside \$1.6 billion to resolve over 1,000 lawsuits claimed by injured, shocked and bereaved persons.

According to the CNNMoney.com report, every suit has been settled outside of a pending case involving a daughter who lost both parents in the incident.

While the company is in agreement with CSB that the incident could have been prevented, it does not see the basis

for all of CSB's comments. In its own safety inspection after the Texas City incident, BP did not find any signs of possible safety problems, according to the Reuters AlertNet report. Between 1994 and 2005 there were eight incidents at the refinery that could have indicated safety problems including two fires, according to the CSB report.

Whether or not BP found its own indications of the accident, the Texas City refinery explosion was tacked as the

worst industrial accident of the decade.

The company has been assessed \$21 million in fines for the 300 safety violations found in the plant during the CSB investigation.

In addition to the debacle with the Texas City explosion, BP is under scrutiny for the 5,000 barrel oil field spill that occurred in Prudhoe Bay in Alaska's North Slope in September 2005, as well as allegations that BP manipulated energy markets, according to CNNMoney.com.



Photo courtesy of www.snh.com

After an explosion at a BP refinery in Texas City, Texas claimed 15 lives and left 170 injured last year, reports are showing that the incident may have been preventable.

Annex Residents and Staff, Students Weigh-In on 'Annex Hermit' Stereotype

BY IMANI GREENE
Contributing Writer

On any given evening, the halls of the Tubman Quadrangle, better known as "The Quad," roar with music, chatter and laughter. Right next door stands the Bethune Annex. In the Annex, as Howard University students know it, there's only silence.

Annex Hermits are stereotyped as girls who don't socialize with people outside of the suite or never venture outside of the dorm because of the accessible amenities right downstairs, such as the cafeteria or the small convenience store. This is a stereotype that Annex residents of the past and the present dispute.

"I moved [to the Annex] my sophomore year to be in a quiet environment, but my suite mates were freshmen and were always going out and bringing their friends over to socialize," said graduate pharmacy major and former Annex resident Lizbeth Brice.

Students must enter through two doors to reach a dorm room in the Annex, but can reach a room in the Quad directly from the hallway.

Sophomore advertising major Jabari Johnson believes this barrier of double doors adds to the seclusion of Annex girls.

"I think girls who live in the Annex are quieter than girls who live in other dorms, because there are two doors separating them from the outside world better known as the hallway," Johnson said. His opinion is based on experiences with residents of the Annex who lacked the opportunity to meet people inside of the dorm, which he feels affected meeting people outside of the living quarters.

However, Sadé Diké believes Annex residents are more involved on campus than people think.



File Photo

The Annex holds panel discussions and programs in the dorm's activity room, which further add to the convenience that sometimes turns Annex residents into 'hermits.'

"I absolutely disagree with the stereotype because most freshman girls who live in the Annex eat in Blackburn's café," Diké said. "They realize that is the social place to be."

Many freshman girls use Annex amenities such as the study room, kitchen on each floor, convenience store and cafeteria. Residents in the other dorms may have to leave for cafeteria meals, study in the library and share a kitchen per every two to four floors. Each dorm room in the Annex has a sink, and only three to five people share the bathrooms rather than 30 to 40 in other dorms.

Sophomore sports medicine major Shannon Clemons believes the Annex is not the best place for freshmen

because living here keeps them from meeting people and gaining the true Howard experience. She believes the only reason to leave the Annex is for class. "Because I lived in the Quad last year, I had no choice but to leave to eat and meet people on the way to the bathroom," Clemons said.

Many residents do not seclude themselves in the Annex, but the "Annex Hermit" stereotype still exists.

Sophomore pre-pharmacy major Amber Fogle, who now lives in Slowe Hall, realizes that living in the Annex last year hindered her freshman experience.

"I wasn't forced to meet people or get out, so most of my friends I met during freshman orientation all lived in the

Quad," Fogle said. "I felt like I was missing out on the bonds they made."

Even prospective Howard students know about the stereotypes for each dormitory. Freshman music education major Fatima Johnson explains that Howard friends told her about the quiet and secluded Annex before her arrival, but that her outgoing personality would prevail over the stereotype.

"I hardly ever eat in the Annex Cafe. I spend most of my time with my friends in the Quad and I go to UGL to study, just to see new faces," Johnson said. "I think it's a choice to be an Annex Hermit, because I personally love getting out."

What's In A Name?

A Look at the Namesakes of Howard University



Just Hall

Just Hall was dedicated in memory of Dr. Earnest E. Just, a zoologist, biologist, physiologist and research scientist who was a pioneer in the field of cell biology. Dr. Just was distinguished as a true scholar and leader.

Ernest Everett Just Hall was built in 1956 and sits in the lower quadrangle of Howard University. Constructed by black architects Hilyard Robinson and Paul Williams, Just Hall sits four stories high in the valley between the chemistry building and the School of Pharmacy.

Just was born Aug. 14, 1893 in Charleston, S.C. to parents Charles Frazier and Mary Mathews Just. His father died when Just was four years old and he was raised by his mother, who was a schoolteacher.

Just was the only person to graduate summa cum laude at Dartmouth College in 1907 with a degree in zoology. He won many special honors in botany, history and sociology. Just received his PhD from the University of Chicago in experimental embryology in 1916. After graduation, Just accepted a teaching position at Howard University in 1907 and later was appointed head of the Department of Zoology in 1912.

Just, alongside three students, Frank Coleman, Dr. Oscar J. Cooper and Bishop Edgar A. Love, founded Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. at Howard University in 1911.

In 1915, he was the first to be awarded the Spingarn Medal by the NAACP. Just also served as a professor in the Medical School and

head of the department of physiology at Howard University until his death from pancreatic cancer in 1941.

Just was commended internationally for producing ground-breaking work completed during the summers from 1909 to 1930 at the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL) in Woods Hole, Mass. While at MBL, Just conducted experiments studying the fertilization of the marine mammal cell. His work involved the subjects of fertilization, experimental parthenogenesis, hydration, cell division and dehydration in living cells, as well as the effect of ultra violet rays in increasing chromosome numbers in animals and in altering the organization of the egg with special reference to polarity.

Just published his first book entitled, "Basic Methods for Experiments on Eggs of Marine Mammals" based on his research findings at Wood's Hole. Although his work in cell development was internationally acclaimed, Just experienced racial discrimination and prejudice within the U.S.

In 1929, he decided to continue his research in Europe where race was not an issue. While in Europe, Just published his second book, "The Biology of the Cell Surface," and served as an adjunct researcher at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Biology in Berlin-Dahlem, Germany. Just Hall is currently used for classrooms within the Biology Department.

-Compiled by
Aeja Washington,
Contributing Writer

The Hilltop

Writing Workshop

Wednesday @ 6:00

The Hilltop Office,
P-Level, West Tower

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If you're interested in becoming a staff writer, you must attend.

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The Washington Post, Washington, D.C.

Thousands of boys from Bogotá's slums transform their lives under the guidance of a concerned priest.

by Harry C. McPherson

McPherson, a former White House Aide and currently a Washington Attorney, visited Colombia as Consultant to the Inter-American Foundation

There are in Bogotá, Columbia, thousands of boys, aged about 5 to 15, who live anarchic lives. They are called *gamins* or street waifs. The word, as we are familiar with it from the French, suggests a cheerful, ingratiating impudence. The *gamins* of Bogotá have this quality. They are fiercely independent and scornful of those among them who compromise with society. The *gamins* are not altogether winsome in their mischief. Like actors in a Latin version of "Oliver!" they steal, and they work for various Fagins. They also kill from time to time. They are involved in the ubiquitous drug rackets. Many are diseased. Dressed in rags, they often sleep in parks, stacked upon one another for warmth in the cold Colombian nights. By the time a *gamin* is 10, he has probably experienced sex (they are often so used by their Fagins), violence, the thrill of stealing, capture, punishment, and escape. He has been sick with hunger, and he has used his wits to survive.

Father Xavier is a member of the Salesian Order. In the late 1960's he was chaplain in the *Carcel de Menores*, the youth jail in Bogotá. In 1970, with some 20 *gamins* released on his personal recognition, he organized a small, experimental learning community in a borrowed house. Soon they moved to a larger building in a slum. It was there that I saw the transformation, indeed the resurrection, of several hundred boys.

Xavier met us in the vast lobby of our hotel. In his Chevy van we drove through narrow streets, headed for "Bosconia" — named for St. John Bosco, the 19th century priest who founded the Salesian Order. Like Xavier he was a teacher of homeless boys.

We drove through the gates of Bosconia. Before us was a courtyard, tile-surfaced, and lined off for games. The number of boys rapidly multiplied, swarming about us, shouting "Bienvenidos a nuestra casa!" I was given a basketball. I shot and missed. Yells of encouragement; try again. A near-basket this time. I would have stayed until I sank one, but Xavier called. Speaking with the boys as he walked, he led us through a building and out into another courtyard. Structurally this was like the first. But against the side of the building, two boys lay in the sun, their sweaters pulled over their heads to block the light. They stirred and came stumbling to their feet. Their eyes were large and seemed without focus. They were drunk from smelling gasoline fumes; they spoke urgently, and incoherently. Near them in the courtyard were other wild looking boys. Their features seemed pushed out of symmetry, the eyes capriciously placed, nose skinned, lips cracked. Their clothes were torn and soiled.

We lunched in Xavier's office, overlooking the courtyard. I became absorbed in watching the boys at play there. They were rough and teasing, as they are everywhere. But they were also generous; everyone had his shot at the basket. And suddenly I became aware of their faces. They were open and cheerful, composed, confident.

These boys were *gamins* still free to leave during the weekends and return to the street (most preferred not to do so), but they had been transformed. They were

the wild boys in the second courtyard months later. The mark of those anarchic days of stealing, starving, half-freezing, fear and bravado had passed from their faces. They had learned to respect themselves because this priest, his associates, and the other boys respected them.

After lunch, we piled back into the van. The boys gathered around and pounded on the top, cheerfully hollering, "Vuelva!" (Come back!)

Fifteen miles from the slums, we were in farm country. Behind us, under heavy clouds and ringed by mountains, Bogotá glowed in a shaft of pearl-grey sunlight. We passed through a village, its cantina raucous with radio music. Rounding a curve, we saw "La Florida."

I cannot remember what I expected to see — something like an orphanage, I suppose, its severe red walls lined with perpetual winter shadows. But La Florida was open, architecturally graceful, and even elegant.

Currently, there are more than 16,000 street children in Father Xavier's program.

Boys came from every direction. They were teenagers, at first slightly more reserved than the youngsters in Bosconia. But as they showed us about, their enthusiasm grew until a dozen were speaking at once, eager to explain the use of each building — the bank and credit union which they operated, the office of the mayor and his council, classrooms, library, workshops, dormitories with cantilevered roofs, and bureaus which now, in the flowering of their youth, held an array of possessions, clothes, toilet articles, and books. Four hundred live in La Florida, and for the most part they run it themselves.

I watched Xavier as he walked among them, boy after boy sought his ear, speaking earnestly or through laughter. He was their leader, who had helped them realize

their own worth. He was smart about the world of affairs, as they were street smart.

A special event was prepared for us. Excitedly the boys moved us across a courtyard, into a hall where 100 or more were waiting. On a bandstand sat 10 players with trumpets, trombones, saxophones, clarinets and drums. We took our seats. First there was a march, then the second movement of *Mozart's Symphony No. 39*.

They played it well, better than any high school band I had ever heard play serious music. The composition struck me. The young men on the bandstand, dressed handsomely in sweaters and slacks, could have been students in an American prep school. They were good natured, proud, ready to mock one another. Once they stole, begged, slept in parks, knew sex before their time, perhaps took a life: they were *gamins*. Now with luck and more training, they would be ready for mature productive lives.

I think there are lessons to be learned from this Colombian example, lessons which apply not only to foreign assistance, but also to some apparently intractable conditions here in America.

It seems quite unlikely that government run programs, however well intentioned, can accomplish results such as Xavier's. Though the society of Bosconia and Florida is certainly egalitarian, its achievement is based on a special concern, rooted in religious and humanistic values for each boy. Public programs are rarely capable of such distinctions.

It need scarcely be said that the world is not oversupplied with Xaviers. But there are men and women of insight, dedication, capacity for love and willingness to take responsibility, whom public funds should support in work that serves deep public needs.

Geneticists may one day tell us that personalities are firmly fixed at birth, and social scientists may draw an age line beyond which they consider change virtually foreclosed, but we have examples such as Bosconia that teach us otherwise. One need not endorse such pabulum, as "There's no such thing as a bad boy." Obviously there

is. But many miscreant youths (by no means all) can be rescued from futures of harm, misery and dependency.

An American public that has grown weary of social spending should know this, for it is our future that is at stake, as well as that of such youths.

GIVE YOURSELF A TREAT!

If you want to see a whole new dimension to life, try volunteering for work in the missions. Your life will never be the same.



Saint John Bosco,
Patron Saint of
the Salesians

The Salesians of St. John Bosco work in over 130 countries. Their more than 600 Trade Schools open up new opportunities for the poor. Through them, street children become mature adults and contributing members of society.

If you ever thought of doing something for needy youngsters, you can volunteer to work for them either overseas or in depressed areas of the United States.

Contact us by phone or E-mail or return the following form:

ADAM RUDIN
SALESIAN LAY MISSIONARIES
2 Lefevre Lane
New Rochelle, NY 10801

Tel: (914) 633-8344

Website: salesians.org/slm

E-mail: adamr@salesianmissions.org

Name _____

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Telephone (____) _____

City Officials Begin to Address Homelessness

BY JANAY WILSON
Contributing Writer

Washington D.C., the nation's capital, a place where people from all over the world come to visit for vacations, take tours and to do various sorts of business. When people come to Washington D.C., they're expected to visit all the monuments and to learn some U.S. history.

What most people do not expect to see in the District is all the homeless people stretched along sidewalks soliciting money and other handouts.

A significant number of people in D.C. are homeless as a result of mental illness or drug and alcohol addictions. About 60 percent of all homeless people in the District have some type of drug addiction.

Eric Sheptock, a homeless man that moves around to different shelters in the area, said, "Most of the people in these homeless shelters have major drug and alcohol addictions, but they don't know where to go to get the help needed."

Many homeless people like Sheptock realize the government is not doing enough to solve the problem.

"There needs to be a take-by-the-hand approach, especially someone with a mental illness. I don't understand how the white man can come all the way to Africa and take the black man to a far new land, but cannot walk five steps outside their door to reach out to the homeless and mentally ill person, to show,



Homeless people can be seen around the entire Washington D.C. metropolitan area. For students coming from areas where homelessness is not as widespread, it is a culture shock to see the masses of people.

not tell them about programs that are available," Sheptock said.

The Kennedy Recreation Center on 7th St. had a hearing last Tuesday to address the issue of homelessness.

Attendees at the hearing agreed with Sheptock's point, saying that trained professionals are sitting in their offices waiting for homeless and mentally ill people to come in and ask for help.

In reality, most of these people do not have the resources to even

find or come to these offices. Many homeless people in D.C. feel bitter and angry about present personal circumstances, and wished more people would reach out to help.

Janice Withers, a local woman who was previously homeless, has changed her attitude about getting help.

"I used to be so mad at everybody that passed by me on the street. But I realized that if I wanted anyone to help me, then I was going to have

to stop being angry at these people who can potentially help me," Withers said.

Many Howard students are not from inner-city areas where homelessness is rampant, and therefore are not familiar with homeless people asking for handouts. For some students, seeing people without homes brings about sentimental feelings.

Senior accounting major

Donavan David is affected by the visual of homeless people everyday at Howard.

"It saddens me to walk by numerous homeless people everyday knowing that even if I do give them a couple dollars it's still not going to help their situation. Plus for me, every homeless man I see, I wonder if he could be my father."

Students who have volunteered at organizations that benefit the homeless said it was an unforgettable experience.

"I have volunteered at soup kitchens, usually during the holidays, and seeing all the homeless people in the condition they were in made me realize how blessed I am to have everything that I have. It reiterated in my mind that I should never take anything for granted," said sophomore political science major Nayo Thomas.

The local community and the District mayor in conjunction with project managers of community developments, are working together and planning to have subsidized housing for the homeless and residents in danger of losing their homes.

This is part of a 10 year plan aimed at ending chronic homelessness.

The hearing was designed for citizens in the community, particularly the homeless, to speak to officials and talk about issues that have been encountered. This dialogue will hopefully promote officials to implement programs to remedy some of these issues.



BY CHARLOTTE YOUNG
Hilltop Staff Writer

The Southwest Waterfront area claims to be one of the oldest and newest neighborhoods of D.C.

Food, building materials, slaves, immigrants and weapons were received through its port in the 1790's. The port was especially busy during the Civil War when Washington D.C. was the headquarters of the Union army.

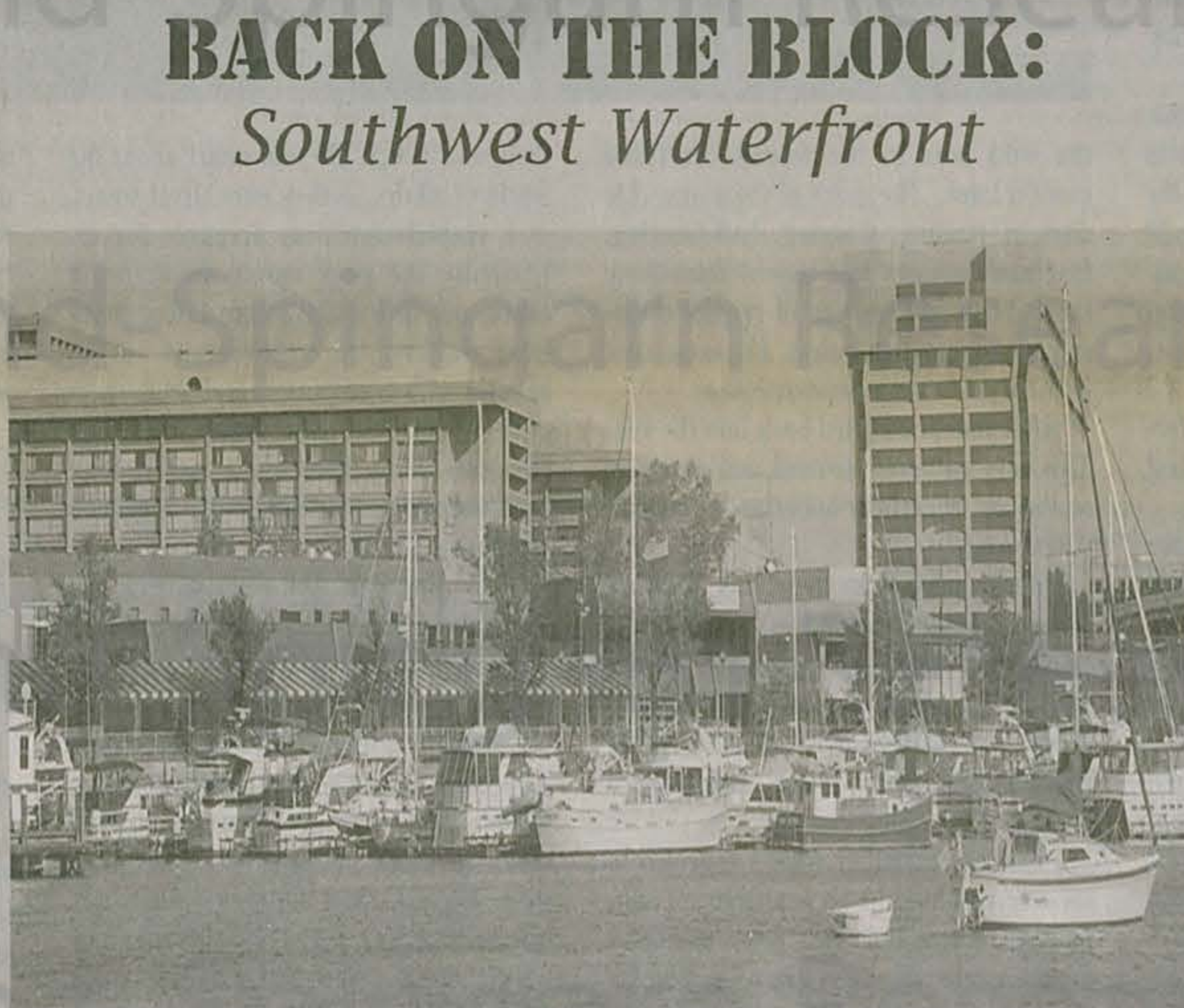
After the 1790's, row houses and individual houses were built. By 1900, the neighborhood was densely built with people from all backgrounds. For 150 years, Southwest Washington was the city's largest working-class waterfront neighborhood.

Now it has been completely changed by urban renewal.

Often referred to as "Washington's best kept secret," the Waterfront and Southwest area is a mix of residential, retail and commercial growth.

David Witze, who works as a security guard at the Gang Plank Marina in the Waterfront, describes it as an area "constantly in transition."

"Ten years ago there used to be row houses all the way through here. The same thing that happened to Anacostia happened here: it's being gentrified," Witze said.



The Southwest Waterfront area dates back to the 1790's. The port located there was especially crucial to the North's military forces during the Civil War.

A 2000 census report showed Southwest to be about 63 percent black, 32 percent white and 3 percent Hispanic. Asians make up the other 2 percent of the population.

Southwest resident Maria Morton agreed that the area is shifting from what it used to be when she first moved here seven years ago.

"It's changed. They closed everything," she said. "There's a lot of different expansion."

Attractions to the Waterfront include the Arena Stage, a historic theater that has been in the area since the 1950's.

It is the largest non-profit producing theater in the District with over 250,000 patrons and 25,000 students in attendance

annually, according to the Arena Stage website.

"It's really easier to get to than some of the other theaters," sophomore biology major Pierre Etienne said.

"Out of all the theaters that I've seen in the D.C. area, it's one of the better ones. The productions there were elaborate."

A Walking Tour of Southwest



Waterfront is also available every fourth Tuesday of each month. The trail, called "From River Farms to Urban Towers," is the fourth historic trail in a system implemented city wide. Those who are interested meet at the Waterfront metro station at 6 p.m.

The Gang Plank Marina, a 310-slip marina community, is also located at the Waterfront.

The Waterfront also offers nightlife activities with clubs such as H2O and Zanzibar.

"Once you come down here on a Friday night, you'll see what it's all about," Bynum said. "People line up all down the street [for] H2O."

Bynum also recommends going to the Cantina Marina, a restaurant on the Gangplank Marina situated on top of the water.

The Cantina Marina is "crowded with a lot of people," Bynum said. "Walk through the gates and to the water and you'll have a ball."

Southeastern University is also located in the Waterfront area. It is a private undergraduate and graduate university chartered by U.S. Congress.

The Waterfront is Metro accessible at the Waterfront-SEU metro stop through the green, yellow, orange and blue lines.

Traffic Light Cameras Raise Alarms in the District

CAMERAS, from NEWS A1 to actually protect the citizens of D.C.

Ralph Pantaleon, a Howard alumnus and an eight year Maryland resident, does not feel that the system is effective. Having had an experience with the system by being issued a fine for running a red light, he feels that the red-light camera system is "just one more way to rob people of their money."

He does not see any vis-

ible improvements being made with the revenue collected from the fines in the D.C. area stating, "Streets are still substandard, accidents still happen and the homeless population is still high."

Fines for red-light violations range from \$30 for driving up to 10 m.p.h. over the speed limit, to \$200 for driving 26-30 m.p.h. over the speed limit.

According to a report in the *Weekly Standard*, the police equipment is main-

tained by the Affiliated Computer Services in Dallas, Texas who are also in charge of processing the data and sending out the citations, entitling them to about \$32.50 out of every \$75 for red-light tickets and \$29 out of every photo-radar ticket.

Labash goes on to point out that the Affiliated Computer Services in Dallas is a "private company given police power to ticket citizens, has monetary interest in generating as many tickets as possible, and despite

its low success rate, is often allowed to do so with minimal or no police supervision."

Officer Casey, lead customer services representative for the Metropolitan Police Department, feels that the current system is accurate and that there is nothing to really improve upon as far as the technological aspect. She says that the cameras have replaced the patrolling cops but have not produced extra patrol cars because police officers

are still needed to monitor the cameras. Officer Casey comments on people's opinions that the cameras are solely for monetary gain stating that, "basically the cameras are doing jobs that officers can't always do. They stop dangerous and reckless driving, increase safety and we simply can not change personal opinion."

She also says that there are those citizens who actually request that cameras be placed in their residential areas and other places that

they are not present. But Casey concedes that there will always be more people that dislike the program than those who appreciate it.

Some helpful tips on how to avoid tickets, are to allow ample time to reach your destination safely, do not speed to make up for lost time, never drive when you're tired, stay alert at all times and don't be distracted by phone calls, or other activities while driving.

Howard University Office of Residence Life
presents its 5th Annual Haunted House

Design by: Chee^2
lucheechala369@aol.com

HAUNTED HILLTOP

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Keynote Speaker:
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12:15 PM
Luncheon Program
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Keynote Speaker:
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Duke Lacrosse Allegations Have Continued Effects

BY JULIANNE HANCKEL
Hilltop Staff Writer

It has been seven months since allegations spread that three men's lacrosse players at Duke University in Durham, N.C., raped a young woman hired to strip at a party held at the home of two of the team's captains.

According to Duke's student newspaper, The Chronicle, this event brought widespread hate actions, towards the lacrosse team members and coach by local colleges such as NC Central.

Pictures of the Duke lacrosse team members were printed out and posted across campus with "rapist" written underneath their names. According to Duke's Alumni Association, the remainder of Duke's lacrosse season was cancelled until the legal situation with the 46 players was made clear and in no way cancelled to bring punishment for the charges brought against the three men.

It is now a question of whether colleges and universities have changed their athletic policies and/or codes of conduct in order to prevent a situation like Duke's from coming

to their own campus.

Dave Cottle, head men's lacrosse coach at the University of Maryland believes that educating the players on his lacrosse team is what he deems most important.

"We have started to educate the boys on many different levels," Cottle said, "But in no way are we close to being done."

Cottle has cited the administrative staff who has provided the athletic policies for all athletes at the University of Maryland. Some of the stated policies touch on unacceptable behavior, underage drinking and drug use.

They are broken down in order to clearly state the expectations of the university's athletes, teams and coaches. The student code of conduct at the University of Maryland was already in place before Duke's lacrosse team scandal.

"We talk about situations like Duke all the time with our boys," Cottle said.

This year the athletic department has brought a new light to the way that athletes are approached with reproducibilities.

"We have a man from the Naval



Parents and players of the Duke men's lacrosse team maintained the alleged offenders' innocence after rape allegations surfaced in March.

Academy coming in every Friday to talk to teams about responsibilities and how to be good leaders," Cottle said.

This is the first new implementation that UMD has put in place since the Duke allegations. Cottle believes that UMD is now doing much more in order to establish good leaders, and that "We got to this point the wrong way, but because of that we are trying hard to turn things around."

"We have the most diverse team in lacrosse," Cottle said. "We had to discuss issues such as underage drinking, racial slurs and the hiring of strippers for entertainment use on campus."

"Duke had 22 cases of strippers being hired on campus from fraternities and other campus organizations," Cottle said. "That will not be allowed here."

During the season, the University of Maryland exercises alcohol-training rules, meaning that no player may partake in the drinking of alco-

hol during the team's athletic season.

While the University of Maryland has implemented this new program, the Alumni Association at Duke University in association with their own Campus Culture Initiative is reviewing student life at Duke and identifying areas that might be improved to engender a greater sense of community, mutual respect and personal responsibility.

For years, Duke student-athletes have received a handbook that outlines guidelines, standards and requirements.

This year, the handbook was revised to reflect some of the lessons of recent months, and the athletics department hosted an all-teams event that highlighted nine core values: education, respect, integrity, diversity, sportsmanship, commitment, loyalty, accountability and excellence.

After the event, coaches reviewed the updated handbook individually

SCOREBOARD & SCHEDULE

SCORES

None

TODAY'S GAMES

Volleyball @ Morgan State
7 p.m.

with their teams to make sure expectations were clear.

In order to bring the event closer to home, the Howard University men's lacrosse team is still fighting for a chance to be considered one of the Bison varsity sports. The team is not an official athletic team at Howard, but is rather considered a lacrosse club.

Former men's lacrosse club president Brent Robinson explains that his team has two challenges: facing the stigma of an all-black lacrosse team, and having to carry Howard's name everywhere they go.

"Everywhere we go, we carry Howard's name. We cannot blame the Duke lacrosse players for this situation, we have to be proud of who we are and what we represent even though there is a stigma against black college athletes, especially lacrosse players," Robinson said.

Robinson and his team members spoke about the repercussions and the stigma that the sport can have, and how what happened at Duke could possibly harm their chances in pushing to become a varsity team.

"This gave us a chance to have more of a voice in lacrosse," he said.

"We have to be proud of who we are and what we represent even though there is a stigma against black college athletes, especially lacrosse players."

- Brent Robinson
Former Howard Men's Lacrosse Club President

Around the MEAC



Photo Courtesy of www.ameasports.com

Hampton's Coleman Sets New MEAC All-Time Rushing Record

Alonzo Coleman, a senior running back for the Hampton University Pirates, broke the MEAC all-time rushing record Saturday in a, 13-3, homecoming win over Winston-Salem State.

He went into the game needing just 90 yards to surpass the record. Battling injuries, he rushed for 91 yards on 10 carries to surpass Howard's Harvey Reed of 4,142.

Coleman is now the league's all-time leader in rushing (4,144) touchdowns (57) and points (342).

Bison v. SC State to Air on ESPNU

The MEAC and ESPNU announced the addition of the Howard versus South Carolina State to its televised football package Wednesday.

The Bison will head to Orangeburg, S.C. to take on the Bulldogs for South Carolina State's homecoming on Saturday at 1:30 p.m.

The game will be tape-delayed and air on ESPNU at 10 p.m. (ET). Howard will make their second appearance on ESPNU in many years, while South Carolina State makes its second televised appearance this season.



Let the Games Begin...



Photo Courtesy of www.adkames.com

The National Basketball Association kicks off its 2006-07 season tonight.

The Miami Heat, last season's champions, will receive their rings and raise the 2005-06 championship banner before they face the Chicago Bulls in Game One of TNT's opening day double-header beginning at 8 p.m.

The game will also give fans a chance to see newly-acquired Ben Wallace with the Bulls for the first time.

Following this re-match of the 2006 Eastern Conference first round series which the Heat won, 4-2, the Phoenix Suns will face the Los Angeles Lakers at 10:30 (ET). This game marks Amare Stoudemire's return to regular season action after he missed much of last year following microfracture knee surgery last October.

TODAY IN SPORTS HISTORY...

On October 31, 1950, Earl Lloyd became the first African American to play in an NBA game.



He Said

.

She Said



The Old Maid Syndrome

"No matter what I do I'm going to end up old and alone anyway, just like all the rest of the black women in the world."

A friend of mine made this claim the other day in response to relationship problems that she was currently dealing with. I would like to say that I hear comments like these rarely but, sadly, that is not the case. Far too often statements like these are made by my female contemporaries here at Howard and at other fine institutions of higher learning.

This common sentiment is due to something I like to refer to as "The Old Maid Syndrome."

Who is at fault for this syndrome, men or women? The blame falls on both genders, like most problems that arise between the sexes.

Men may contribute to this perception by our overall attitudes about long-term relationships and marriage. At this stage in our lives, that type of commitment is not

appealing. Our entire lives we've been socialized to view marriage as an obligatory eventuality instead of the stuff dreams are made of.

There is also the fact that there is a smaller pool of eligible bachelors for women to choose from, but that is not our fault and we should not be blamed for the mistakes of others.

On the other hand, women seem to want too much too soon. Now is not the time to be so worried about finding that one anyway. Stop being so frustrated and be patient. The purpose of attending a university should not be to obtain that MRS degree but to get that BA and let the rest fall in place later.

According to a study in the Atlanta Journal Constitution, 50 percent of the marriages in which the bride is 18 or younger end in divorce and 40 percent end in divorce for



marriages in which the bride was 20 or younger. However, it dramatically changes when the bride hits 25 to a meager 24 percent.

Statistically it's better to wait anyway, so don't allow your current situation to affect your perception of the future. Don't be so pressed.

A lot of people can remember playing the card game "Old Maid" as a child, but did we ever stop to think about the terrible message this sends to little girls?

No, really. Think about it. The whole point of the game is to get rid of the Old Maid and whomever ends up with it is the loser. Really?

We should just tell our sisters and daughters and nieces that being an "Old Maid" is associated with being a loser.

Some may think I'm reading too much into this childhood game, but during your collegiate years, it becomes clear that "Old Maid Syndrome" is no game.

Me, myself, personally, I have no fear of being an Old Maid, and may even prefer it to the Old Ball and Chain, but I know that I may not be representative of the typical Lady Bison on that front.

Long gone are the days when the only reason a woman sought out higher education was as a means to obtaining the all-important "M.R.S. Degree," but there are some women who have come to The Mecca in search of a lifelong mate.

This may pose a problem, because as my friend said "Men come for their S.E.X. degree." But regardless of how often they can find a man that seems ready to settle down, there are Bison women who

are on the prowl.

However, the search may not be their fault. Studies have shown that the childhood circumstances of collegiate women effect the way they view their marital future.

In a 2003 article in the Journal of Vocational Behavior, "Planning ahead: College seniors concerns about career-marriage conflict," researchers found that students whose mothers worked outside the home were less worried about a conflict than those whose mothers stayed at home. Another predictor variable was the students' own family plans.

So, not all the women racing towards the walk down the aisle are just plain crazy. Some can say they get it from their momma.

It's important to remember that the cliches are true. You don't need a man to be happy.

But to all those ladies who are looking, there's hope. I'm already on the guest lists of three weddings.

From the Minds of Joshua Thomas & Jana Homes

HOUSEBROKEN



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www.comicspage.com or www.myhousebroken.com



What The... ?!

Out of the ordinary news briefs that beg the question, "What The... ?!"



Photo Courtesy: www.abf.blogspot.com

Fatherly Affection

A controversial photo of Bryan "Baby" Williams kissing label mate and frequent collaborator Lil' Wayne in the lips.

The Birdman responded to arising questions in an interview with Q93 in New Orleans.

"Before I had a child, Wayne and all of them were my children, you heard me? Wayne to me is my son - my first born son - and that's what it do for me," Baby said. "That's my life, that's my love and that's my thing. That's my lil' son. I love him to death."

The credit for releasing the photo goes to Gillie the Kid, a former Cash Money artist whose relationship went sour after departing from the label.

Tyrese Reveals "Alter Ego"

Platinum selling R&B artist Tyrese is crossing over to the MC side of music with upcoming double CD entitled "Alter Ego" that will feature his skills as a vocalist as well as a rapper.

One disc will be Tyrese singing as the world is used to and the other will be him as a rapper under the name of "Black Ty."

The R&B disc will feature production by Lil Jon and R. Kelly while the rap disc will benefit from production by Mannie Fresh, All Star and Scott Storch.

"Black Ty" will get help from veteran MCs like Lil' Scrappy, The Game, Snoop Dogg, Kurupt, Too Short, David Banner and Method Man.

Tyrese's/Black Ty's "Alter Ego" is due to be released Dec. 5 by J Records.



Photo Courtesy of www.dubnm.com

News courtesy of allhiphop.com, sohh.com

Compiled by Joshua Thomas, Deputy Managing Editor

Overheard @ The Mecca

"Ohhh Weeee (in the Wilmer Voice)"

Overheard near Chipotle, where they all had JUMBO burritos

GA Girl: "Yo Momma" is coming to Atlanta. Yay!

Cali Girl: That show is wack.

B-more Girl: It really is.

Cali Girl: Yeah, the only reason I watch it is to see people I know.

GA Girl: Yeah, I know you be seeing people you know all the time on "Next" because I be recognizing some of those folks.

B-More Girl: The only place I see people I know is "The Wire." I went to acting camp with that girl who cut the girl in the face and I just saw her on the Yard. (laughs) Ya'll better watch out, but my face is cool.

"Love, Not So Deep"

Overheard in School of B

Professor: What are some current events in the news?

Guy1: Mobb Deep almost died in a plane crash

Professor: Who is Mobb Deep?

Guy2: They were at homecoming. . . looking like some homeless locals.

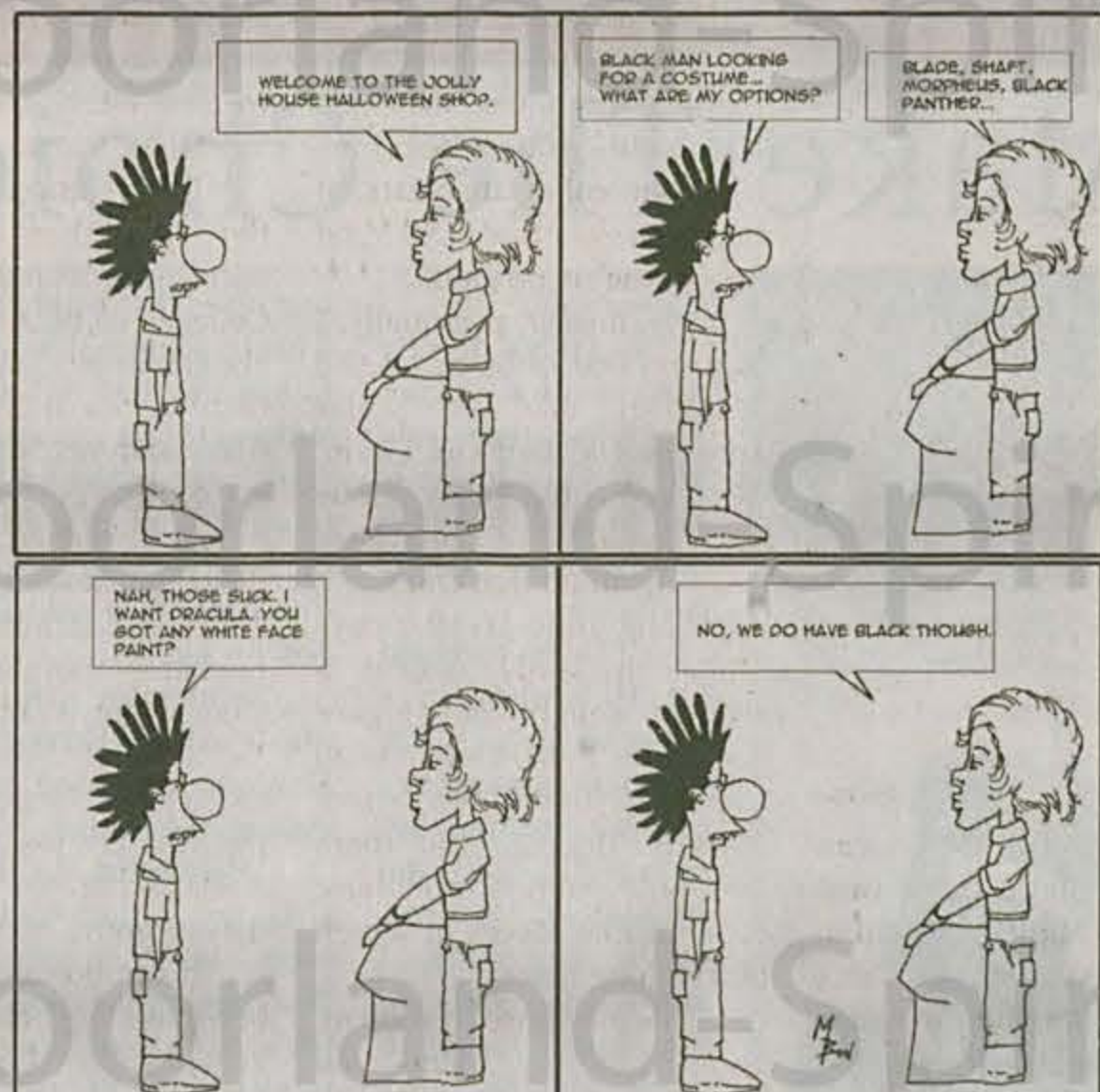
Guy1: Could have been a great loss to hip hop, well, a loss to hip hop.

Check out more at Overheardatthamecca.blogspot.com and submit to Overheardatthamecca@gmail.com

Please send any responses to Meccanisms; 'He Said . . .

She Said' topics, What The...?! or any other contributions to

meccanisms@gmail.com



Trick Or Treat

Halloween 2006 has arrived and for many students that means one thing: break out your scariest or sexiest costume.

However, on this day of mischief and witches, we hope students remember just because you are out for a little fun doesn't mean those around you aren't out for a little more.

For many of us, high school or maybe even college was the first time we joined in the Halloween fun as our parents didn't want us to trick or treat.

Just polling the Hilltop staff, we see the varied experiences and views of students' Halloween celebrations growing up, from our fairy princesses and cartoon characters to families who turned off all the lights to keep trick or treaters away.

The fact is now that we are older, the holiday has taken on a new meaning which equals parties, parties, and a few more parties, for which girls pull out their sexiest outfits and throw on some animal ears after tak-

ing notes from the Plastics in "Mean Girls." Just look at all the costume galas advertised on Facebook.

One of our own staff members hosted a Halloween party over the weekend, and just like Re-Run from 'What's

Our View:
We wish students a Happy Halloween and hope they remember just because they aren't celebrating the devil, doesn't mean other people aren't. Be Safe. Party On.

Happening, a nerd showed up, so did some unsavory guests who were looking more for a fight than for a good time.

So, in this festive time, we hope students live up to the opportunity to be creative and a little wild, yet also be safe and conscious of your surroundings.

Looking into the history of Halloween, it's not clear whether the celebrations we have today are connected to the Roman Catholic All Saints Day celebrating all saints in heav-

en, or the holiday Hallowtide, which was the feast of the dead in Pagan times and the holiday celebrating the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter in Christianity.

Regardless, today at Howard University, Oct. 31 just means a day to dress up - something like this campus has perfected long ago - and pull out your Gold Digger costume or do the Steve Urkel as our Undergraduate Trustee perfected.

Halloween is definitely what you make it. We applaud those who use the holiday as

a time to give back to the community like Residence Life opening its doors to neighborhood kids for the Haunted Hilltop and Circle K going to the zoo this past weekend to help with 'Boo at the Zoo.'

We know no one is still trick or treating, but for those who can't let it go, feel free to drop some chocolate by the Hilltop office as we work on tomorrow's paper.

For everyone else who is in the Halloween spirit have fun tonight. Be safe.

Daily Sudoku

Directions: Each row, each column, and each 3x3 box must contain each and every digit 1-9 exactly once.

3			5		8			
	4		8		7			
9				2		5	3	
6	1		3					
		3			4			
				9		6	2	
4	8		5					6
		5		8		7		
1			6					5

Do you want to write for THE HILLTOP?

Come to our budget meeting
Monday @ 7 p.m.

THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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Now in its 83rd year, The Hilltop is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of more than 7,000, The Hilltop is the largest black collegiate newspaper in the nation.

The opinions expressed on the Editorial & Perspectives page are the views of The Hilltop Editorial Board and those of the authors and do not necessarily represent Howard University or its administration.

The Hilltop reserves the right to edit letters for space and grammatical errors and any inappropriate, libelous or defamatory content. All letters must be submitted a week prior to publication.

The Hilltop

Writing Workshop

Wednesday @ 6:00
The Hilltop Office,
P-Level, West Tower

Why Come?

If you want to be a better writer, for The Hilltop or anyone else.

If you're interested in becoming a staff writer, you must attend.



Halloween 2006

Haunted Holiday a Mixed Bag for Students



Sexy or Scary: Ladies Make The Choice

BY CHARDE D. MILES
Contributing Writer

"Halloween is the one night a year when girls can dress like a total slut and no other girls can say anything about it," said Lindsay Lohan in the popular teen movie "Mean Girls." Some people believe girls use Halloween as an excuse to dress in the most provocative outfits available. On the annual event filled with goblins and witches, women must decide whether to be a creature for the night or a favorite television vixen.

According to Sally Foster, a psychology professor at the University of Miracosta in Oceanside, Calif., Halloween in California is an occasion for people to either dress up as someone the person loves, a figure they would like to emulate or someone despicable they would like to mock.

Junior biology major Taliesin Gabriel said that Halloween is the perfect day to get away with any outfit she wants to wear.

"I love Halloween because it gives me a chance to do whatever I want without being judged. If I want

to be Malibu Barbie or Lil' Kim I can do that. It's perfect. This year I think I'll go as a sexy cat or maybe a bunny," Gabriel said.

Sophomore psychology major Mia Harris agrees. "I haven't dressed up for Halloween since high school, but even then it was a fun chance for my friends and I to let go. We all dressed up for the school dance as the girls from Moulin Rouge. It was really fun."

Although some girls chose to let loose for Halloween and be whatever the mind can imagine, some just can't get into the spirit.

Sophomore psychology major Devan Gaines has trouble feeling festive.

"I don't dress up for Halloween



The movie "Mean Girls" depicts high school-aged girls in provocative attire on the one night a year it's considered acceptable.

Gaines said.

Sophomore mathematics major Traci Taliaferro said the weather prevents her from dressing in one of those skimpy costumes.

"I haven't dressed for Halloween in a while because I never have any extra money to buy a costume. But even if I did, it's too cold outside to dress up in sexy outfit. I know some girls do that, but if I were to dress up this year I'd go as a girl from the '70's or '80's," Taliaferro said.

According to inspirational editor of bellaonline.com, Deanna Joseph, Halloween may reveal

people's true personalities.

"When we choose a Halloween costume, we are, in a very simple way choosing to express an aspect of

ourselves that wants to be expressed. During a normal week, our work or family life may not allow us to be a superhero, rockstar or a fairy queen. Halloween offers us the opportunity to safely explore a different aspect of ourselves and in psychological terms this process is called 'sublimation,'" Joseph said.

Sophomore film production major Chris Farmer believes that Halloween is good way for girls to express themselves.

"Halloween is the day when girls say 'forget it, I can be whatever I want.' It may be something that they've been wanting to do for a while, so I think it's good for girls to release some of their inner self; it's healthy for them," Farmer said.

"Whatever costume we choose, we have to remember that it's telling more about ourselves than we may think. But it's also offering us the opportunity to express a creative part of our inner selves that normally may not get much attention," Joseph said. Store manager of Costumes Creative in Silver Spring Joan Pekin said that she is definitely selling more sexy costumes to women than frightful ones.

Mystery, History of Halloween Unearthed

BY ERICA ROBINSON
Hilltop Staff Writer

Are monsters scary? Are the haunting spirits of the night effective in frightening people? This is all a part of the holiday known as Halloween. It's a day to wear costumes and trick or treat for candy. Its origins date back to the ancient Celtic festival called Samhain, pronounced "sow-in." It is celebrated every year on Oct. 31.

Many Howard students wonder how the holiday was started.

According to freshman nursing major Erica Davis, "I thought it was a random day of the year where you dress up scary and eat candy," Davis said.

On the contrary, Halloween has great significance.

The founder and president of the Alternate Reality Center (ARC), an organization that focuses on paranormal research and investigations, Stacey Allen-McGee, gave a brief history of Halloween.

The holiday's origins date back almost 3,000 years ago in Celtic Ireland B.C., when the Celts roamed the land. Allen-McGee called it a "Druid festival of the dead."

During this time of the year, the people felt that during the harvest, when the sun was changing from the

summer to the winter, thanks could be given to the earth through sacrifice.

"The people also believed that the spirits of the dead and the living became transparent. The dead could roam the land. To prevent evil spirits, the people would hold various rituals. Right before harvest, prophecy was considered to be most accurate," said Allen-McGee, who also serves as the tour director for Appalachian Ghost Hunts in Washington County, Tenn.

Owner of Alexandria Colonial Tours, where the annual Ghost Graveyard Tour is held, Wellington Watts, shared his knowledge about Halloween.

This time of the year was viewed as a "time of darkness." If a poor harvest resulted that year, superstitions originated. As superstitions were created, the people tried to keep the evil forces away.

Samhain was the name of the festival the Celts celebrated before harvest. The belief was that the ghosts from the dead came back to earth and the deceased walked around with the living. It was believed that these spirits helped the Druids, or Celtic priests, to predict if the town would survive the winter. The priests built bonfires where animals were sacrificed and crops were burned. The bonfires have now transcended into

jack-o-lanterns, pumpkins carved into faces with tiny candles lit inside. Much like today, the Celts wore costumes and tried to tell each other's fortunes.

Pope Gregory III declared this day as All Hallows Day, which took place on November 1. Then the name changed into All-Hallows-Eve. As the holiday spread into America, it was called Halloween.

Soling was a process in which Celts would visit other families and pray for the souls in exchange for tiny cakes. This can be related to the modern custom of trick or treating. The full story behind the candy rush remains unclear.

Since Puritans associated the holiday as evil, the celebration started to fade out. After the potato famine in the mid 19th century, traditions began to change.

"Catholics took over and created All Saints Day, where the good graces of God were recognized on November 1. [The Catholics] created All Souls Day, where all the departed [souls who were believed to be in purgatory] were honored on November 2," Allen-McGee said.

The tradition of Halloween soon spread across America.

"The original 13 states believed in the paranormal, but some of the northern states did not," Allen-



Halloween descended from the 3,000-year-old Druid Festival of the Dead. The Druids thought spirits returned to earth on that day.

McGee said.

Halloween has become an enjoyable holiday for not only children, but also for adults all across the U.S. Parties are thrown, costume contests are held and a surplus of all different kinds of delicious candy are available. The tradition of children running from door-to-door in costumes such as monsters, angels, princesses, superheroes and witches in search for

candy soon began. After reciting the magic words "trick or treat," children received candies ranging from chocolates and lollipops, while some people put personal touches on Halloween goodies and baked special treats.

"Children made Halloween a night for themselves, bobbing for apples and frolicking the streets with their friends," Allen-McGee said.

What's to Do In the District: Your 2006 Guide



BY LESLEY COTHRAN
Contributing Writer

Ghost, ghouls and goblins aren't going to be the only late night wonders this Halloween. All Hallows Eve is creeping up fast and many still agree that it is not just a children's holiday.

For most adults, it's another excuse to dress up in silly costumes and parade around town as if it was normal. Students around campus are still deciding where to go for this haunted night and what to wear.

Instead of attending one of the many house parties, many students opt to explore the District and see what it has to offer.

Around the metro area, street masquerades are in abundance. After trick-o-treating and parading through the streets of the Georgetown shopping district, along with hundreds of others, many students head over to the Farragut West area where Nightmare on M Street is held. With a ticket and a costume, party-goers have access to numerous cafes and clubs along the

strip and also have chances are winning cash prizes.

If that's too far, the D.C. Society of Young Professionals, along with Hard Rock Café, host the Graveyard Jam located near the Metro Center stop. Both parties provide plenty of music, food and drink specials that will not disappoint.

Clubs around the metro area are also getting into the spooky spirit by hosting costume parties this Halloween. The Eyes Wide Shut Masquerade Party is being held at Mirrors located on New York Avenue. WPGC DJs will be in attendance so wearing a creative costume is highly advised. There could be a contest and giveaways. Fur Nightclub is hosting Freek-O-Ween with 95.5. Rumor is there might be a celebrity guest giving away cash for the best costume in the house. [do we print rumors?]

For those who aren't in the party mood, there are still plenty of lounges throughout the city for getting into the spirit. At the Helix Lounge on Rhode Island, there is a pumpkin carving contest and happy hour. Good advice might be to skip the pumpkin carving if joining

in on the happy hour fun. [is this feature supposed to be funny?] 51st State Lounge on L Street in Foggy Bottom is having drink specials and, of course, a best costume contest. Over on 14th Street, the Halloween Masquerade Ball is being held at Jin. Costumes are a must for this party so be sure to come in a great costume.

A favorite of many is the Halloween Monster Bash at the Claredon Ballroom in Arlington. It is usually one of the best and biggest costume parties held in the city. Be prepared to wait in line but it's said to be worth it. Whether stationed at one party or making nightly rounds throughout the District, students are sure to have a good time. Washington D.C. has a lot to offer to all crowds and Halloween isn't an exception.

On Halloween day, our very own Cook Hall will play host to its annual Haunted Hilltop. This tribute to the scary holiday will be full of ghouls, goblins, and fun for all ages. Make sure to stop by if you want to get the Halloween experience without even leaving campus.

In addition to the many other events around the District, The Haunted Hilltop is a crowd pleaser for the Howard community.